Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A copolymer comprising the following monomers:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

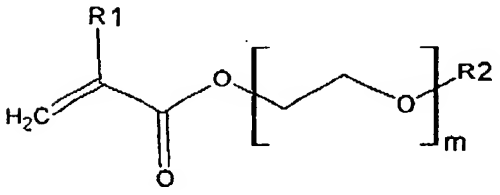
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

2. (Currently amended) **The** [A] copolymer according to claim 1, **wherein the copolymer comprises** ~~comprising~~ the following monomers:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a monomer **of the** ~~characterized by~~ formula I **and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight**:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms

~~in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight~~.

3. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion **prepared by polymerizing** ~~obtainable by polymerization of~~ the following monomers in water **and** in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

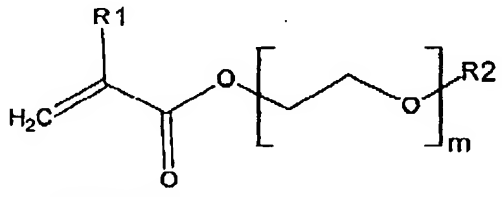
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

4. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion **prepared by polymerizing** ~~**obtainable by polymerization of**~~ the following monomers in water **and** in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight;

and a monomer of **the** formula I **and** ~~**as described in claim 1**~~ in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

5. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion **prepared by polymerizing** ~~**obtainable by polymerization of**~~ the following monomers in water **and** in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights ;

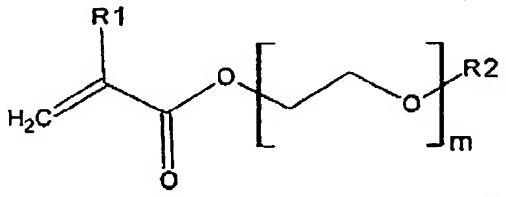
~~**wherein if the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD then it is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction**~~.

6. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion **prepared by polymerizing** ~~**obtainable by polymerization of**~~ the following monomers in water in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight;

and a monomer of **the** formula I **and** ~~**as described in claim 1**~~ in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights ~~**wherein if the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD then it is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction**~~.

7. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion **prepared by polymerizing** ~~**obtainable by the polymerization of**~~ the following monomers in water:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight

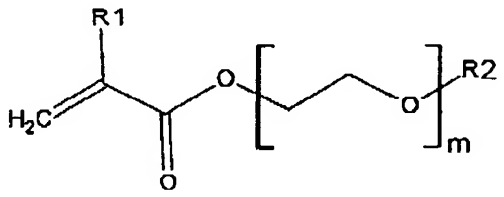
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

8. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion **prepared by polymerizing** ~~**obtainable by the polymerization of**~~ the following monomers in water:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight;

and a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

9. (Currently amended) A film for use in coating pharmaceutical formulations, **wherein the film is prepared by removing** ~~**obtainable by removal of**~~ water from an aqueous dispersion according to any one of claims 3 to 8.

10. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:

a) a pharmaceutical core comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient; and

b) a film coating comprising a film according to claim 9.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient which is provided in a plurality of beads wherein each of the beads is coated with a film according to claim 9.

12. (Currently amended) **The** **[A]** formulation according to **[either]** claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the formulation is a controlled release formulation.

13. (Currently amended) **The** **[A]** formulation according to **claim 11 or 12,** ~~**any one of claims 10-12**~~ wherein the pharmacologically active ingredient has activity in the treatment of cardiovascular or gastrointestinal diseases.

14. (Currently amended) **The** **[A]** formulation according to **claim 13, wherein** ~~**any one claim 10-12 in which**~~ the pharmacologically active ingredient is a beta-blocking adrenergic agent.

15. (Currently amended) **The** **[A]** formulation according to claim 14 in which the pharmacologically active ingredient is metoprolol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Currently amended) **The** **[A]** formulation according to claim 15,**wherein** ~~**in which**~~ the metoprolol salt is the tartrate, succinate, fumarate or benzoate salt.

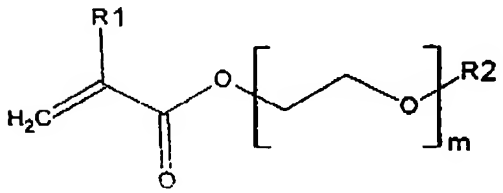
Claims 17-22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a **copolymer, wherein the process comprises** ~~**polymer comprising**~~ polymerizing the following monomers in water **and** in the presence of an emulsifier:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight[.]; and

a monomer **of the** ~~**characterized by**~~ formula I **and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight**:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms,

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights ~~**in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight**~~.

24. (Currently amended) **The** ~~**[A]**~~ process according to claim 23, wherein the process is carried out at a temperature in the range of 1 to 100°C.

25. (Currently amended) A process **for preparing** ~~**to prepare**~~ a **pharmaceutical** formulation **comprising a pharmaceutically active ingredient contained in a pharmaceutical core or in a plurality of beads, wherein the process comprises** ~~**as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 16 comprising**~~ coating the pharmaceutical core or **each of the** beads with a film coating dispersion **according to** ~~**as defined in**~~ any one of claims 3 to 8.

26 (New) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD, and wherein the emulsifying agent is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction.